



CALPEEK

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15th C.D. UPDATE: CAMPBELL TO RUN FOR MINETA SEAT. DCCC HAS YET TO FIND A DEMO CANDIDATE.

Editor's note: In the battle to replace popular veteran U.S. Rep. Norman Mineta (D-San Jose), who will resign from office Oct. 10th, lots of activity this past week. Here's CALPEEK's update & analysis...

...GOP State Sen. Tom Campbell (R-Palo Alto) has announced that he will seek Mineta's seat. He made a formal announcement Sept. 14. In effect, the GOP horse is off and running, while the Demos aren't even at the starting gate. Campbell's key issue will be a **balanced budget** through control of wasteful spending. Sounds good and probably plays well in this high-tech business area, where registration numbers indicate the 15th C.D. can be won by either a Demo or Republican, as long as the candidate is a moderate...

...On the Demo side, San Jose Mayor Susan Hammer issued a statement Sept. 19 saying she would NOT be a candidate. She recently met with U.S. Rep. Martin Frost, the popular Dallas Demo who heads the Demo Congressional Cmp. Cmt. The DCCC wanted to recruit her, but will have to settle for someone else. There is a solid Demo bench, but the players don't have Hammer's name ID. Why did she turn the DCCC down? Perhaps she wants to run statewide in 1998...

...Former San Jose Councilman/businessman Jerry Estruth and Santa Clara Co. Sup. Jim Beale are still looking things over very carefully. Estruth's name has been mentioned before as a possible candidate for mayor of San Jose when Hammer is *termed out* in 1998. He's well liked by the influential Mercury News and sources say he's willing to pump in some big bucks to kick off his campaign. Other names to add to the long list now include Santa Clara Co. Assessor Larry Stone; and high tech business executives John Gage and Harry Saal. Out are John Vasconcellos and Tom

Hayes, who will battle for the OPEN 13th S.D...

...Back to Campbell. He served two terms in the U.S. House (1989-92) and then left for an unsuccessful '92 GOP primary run for the U.S. Senate. Sources say that ever since his loss in '92 he's been itching for another shot. On the TV show "This Week In Calif.," Campbell refused to rule out another U.S. Senate run. But a few days after his appearance on that show, he issued a Sept. 19 statement which said in part, "*I have no intention of running for the U.S. Senate in 1998.*"...

...While this statement seems very clear and may put to rest an issue that could damage Campbell politically, please remember what Gov. Pete Wilson said in 1994 about serving out his full term if reelected as governor. One other note: community college trustee Karin Dowdy will continue running for the 15th C.D., thus the GOP field has **not** been cleared for Campbell...

CAMPAIGN '96: PETE WILSON'S WHITE HOUSE RUN.

Editor's note: While it's very true that the month of September is one that Gov. Pete Wilson and his presidential campaign staff would just as soon forget, it's too early to write Wilson's *political obituary*. Here is CALPEEK's analysis & commentary...

...From the spin put forth by some of Wilson's GOP presidential rivals, you'd think he was dead for 1996. Here's what his rivals say: 1) Wilson's fundraising has hit a wall and funds are drying up; 2) the campaign is in chaos because of an internal power struggle; 3) his decision to pass on Iowa was a major blunder; and 4) his overall strategy of the 3 NEWS (New Hampshire, New England & New York) is badly flawed. Is this pure spin or correct info? Our sources say some of both...

...It's not just Wilson's fundraising that's hurting; all of the GOP candidates are in a slow period. Why? Colin

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Powell --- it's that simple. He's dominated the political news for 6 weeks and key contributors are holding off until Powell makes some kind of presidential decision. Bottomline: the campaign is in debt; staff layoffs are likely; and finance director Anne LeGassick is OUT...

...As for the ongoing power struggle between cmp. chair Craig Fuller and cmp. mgr. George Gorton, it's over and Fuller is in **total command**. On Sept. 20th Gorton resigned from the Wilson campaign. Some critics think Wilson goofed by hiring Fuller in the first place, noting the overall winning record of the **Gorton Team** with Wilson. But Gorton simply didn't have the necessary experience to run a presidential campaign. Gorton was told by colleagues that he and Fuller were a *winning combo*: Gorton on strategy, Fuller on daily tactics. But in the end, Gorton couldn't accept the fact that after all these years with Wilson, in this most important campaign, he was not #1...

...It's sad because Gorton essentially won two important and recent policy battles with Fuller. It was Gorton's idea to pull the plug in Iowa. And Gorton is the guy who sold Wilson on the 3 NEWS strategy. Sources say Fuller favored a slow Iowa pull out and wanted to pass on NY. But Gorton viewed Iowa as a *resource sinkhole*. As for the 3 NEWS, Fuller recently said Wilson would win New Hampshire. That isn't likely, but with a strong paid media effort, he might make a respectable showing. He has a much better shot in the Mar. 5th Yankee Primaries, where a focused TV campaign could produce several wins. Fuller is partially right about NY. It's a costly gamble, but Dole is not the kind of GOPER these Republicans like. Wilson is. But will he have the money to get on the NY ballot? Right now he's struggling, but matching funds could help --- IF he can hold on. Stay tuned...

3 INCUMBENTS WIN IN SAN DIEGO COUNCIL RACES

San Diego councilmembers George Stevens(#4), Valerie Stallings(#6) and Juan Vargas(#8) were reelected in the Sept. 19th primary. Stevens got about 60%, Stallings 52% and Vargas didn't have an opponent. There will be a Nov. 7th runoff in District #2 between community leader/campaign consultant Byron Wear and planning bd. president John Seymour. Wear finished 1st in a field of 4. Stay tuned...

CRP CONVENTION IN PALM DESERT SEPT. 29 - OCT. 1

The Calif. Republican Party will hold its semi-annual statewide convention at the Marriott Desert Springs Resort in Palm Desert, Sept. 29 - Oct. 1. CA Gov. Pete Wilson is giving one of the keynote speeches. Other speakers include Christian Coalition Exec. Dir. Ralph Reed and Jean Kirkpatrick...

CARD CLUB MADNESS: FOLLOWING THE MONEY.

Editor's note: The final amounts haven't been reported on either side as yet, but sources believe the **YES on A** side in the unsuccessful battle to get a card club in the City of South San Francisco may have spent in excess of \$500,000. The NO side, backed by rival card clubs and Nevada interests, probably spent \$150,000 or more. When we get final figures, we'll report them. In the meantime, here's our brief update...

...As CALPEEK reported last week, supporters of a card club in So. S.F. lost the Sept. 12th election by a margin of 44.2% YES to 55.8% NO. But in terms of **raw numbers**, the YES side got only 4,461. So that means the YES side spent about \$112 for each vote they received. Two of the key backers of the poker club were R.D. Hubbard, chair of Hollywood Park (and the Inglewood Card Club), and Edward DeBartolo Jr., owner of the S.F. 49ers, plus other gaming/entertainment and realty interests. At least one nasty hit piece aimed at Hubbard was thought to be very effective. The opposition consultant was Larry Tramutola...

...**Correction from last week:** In our story about the card club initiative in Palm Springs, CALPEEK incorrectly reported that news media stories said DeBartolo favored spending \$16-20 million on a 1996 Statewide initiative to permit gaming in certain Calif. cities. According to a source at the Palm Springs Desert Sun, comments about a 1996 statewide measure were made by developer Mark Bragg, who along with DeBartolo Entertainment executive Mark Rivers, were being interviewed about Measure L by the Desert Sun's editorial board in May of this year. Bragg was speaking for himself, not DeBartolo Entertainment. We apologize for incorrectly identifying the source of this statement...

...As for why DeBartolo is involved in Palm Springs, it's simple. DeBartolo Realty Corp. owns The Desert Fashion Plaza and it would be one of 3 sites in Palm Springs where a card club could operate if Measure L is

approved Nov. 7th. Measure L prohibits the use of the words "card room" or "cards" in the name of the facility. Thus these facilities would be called "entertainment centers." FYI: The NO on L side has challenged DeBartolo and the YES side to an Oct. 8th debate...

...In other card club news, Compton city officials and reps from Hollywood Park and DeBartolo Entertainment announced plans bring the Crystal Park Hotel & Casino to Compton sometime next year, on the site now occupied by the old Ramada Inn, which has been closed for some time. No public vote is required. And a CA Court of Appeals has rejected a lawsuit by local Pomona residents seeking to block a scheduled Nov. 7th card club election. In April, Pomona voters narrowly rejected a plan calling for two card clubs. The Nov. 7th initiative calls for only one club. Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET: MINOR GUN BILL MAY SPELL TROUBLE FOR CA ATTY. GENERAL DAN LUNGREN.

Editor's note: There wasn't much action on gun control bills in this just completed first half of the 1995-96 legislative session. But there's at least one bill on Gov. Pete Wilson's desk which may cause AG Dan Lungren some grief. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...SB 670 by State Sen. John Lewis(R-Orange Co.) caps the fees that can be charged by the CA Dept. of Justice(DOJ) for doing background checks on those who buy guns. It also places strict budgetary controls over Lungren's use of these funds --- estimated to be \$7-8 million per year. That's a lot of money --- money that could be used to computerize the background check system to speed up the process, as pro-GUN forces would like...

...Lungren didn't like the bill in its original form and tried to cut a deal with the NRA, CRPA and Gunowners of CA. He agreed to the cap on background fees, but his price was NO budgetary control over the fees and an amendment to SB 670 that would immunize the DOJ from any legal action IF there was a mistake made in a background check. But Consumer Attys. of CA and the American Shooting Sports Council objected. Thus the bill, in its original form, was approved by the legislature (with Demo help), even though Lungren tried to kill it...

...With Lungren's team on the warpath, where does this

leave Gov. Wilson? The gun groups are urging Wilson to sign SB 670. If he vetoed 670, but signed every other gun bill on his desk - and he directed his Dept. of Finance to administratively monitor the background fees - he might get away with a veto. But a veto really isn't best for Wilson because of presidential politics...

...FYI: AB 70 by Willard Murray(D-Paramount) gives federally licensed gun collectors regulatory relief if they meet some strict conditions. AB 70 also helps implement AB 175 by Assemblyman Larry Bowler(R-Elk Grove), which will help transfer inoperable service weapons of dead law enforcement officers to their families. Sources say AB 70 should be a no brainer for Wilson, but Lungren is opposed. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

◆ **Another 187 Wedge Issue in '96?** - OKed for circulation is an initiative statute by 187 co-chair Ron Prince that would, among other things, establish a U.S. immigration policy that would consider the impact on States; and provide that a person born in the U.S. to an illegal alien mother shall retain the mother's nationality. The title of this measure is "**Resolution on U.S. Constitutional Amendment Regarding Immigration.**" Prince has until Feb. 14, 1996 to collect 433,269 valid signatures to qualify for the November '96 ballot...

◆ **New CCRI Survey** - Pollster Mervin Field's latest survey taken Aug. 24 - Sept. 4 among 1008 CA adults (of whom 734 were registered voters) on the controversial CA Civil Rights Initiative shows 76% awareness of CCRI. When a summary of the initiative is read, the results are: 58% yes; 33% no; and 9% undecided. FYI: Sources think the AG will give CCRI the green light to begin collecting signatures on or about Sept. 25. Look for an official CCRI launch and kickoff news conference around Sept. 28...

● **3 Strikes Goes National** - Fresno photographer Mike Reynolds, the driving force behind the 3 Strikes & You're Out Law, is going national. Sources say he's researching and pursuing several legislative & initiative projects for '96. Reynolds now has a ☎ 1-900-7-3 STRIKES number --- which brings in \$9.95 per call. Cavalier & Associates will handle CA/U.S. activities...

L.A. CO. 4th ANNUAL ACCESS AWARDS LUNCHEON.

Among those being honored at the 4th annual Access Awards Luncheon on Oct. 18 will be State Sen. Diane Watson(D-L.A.) and Asst. Sec. of Educ. Judith E. Heumann. The luncheon will begin at 11:15 a.m. at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in L.A. For info ☎ (213)974-1053...

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SPEAKERSHIP WARS: AS EXPECTED, ALLEN RESIGNS. FRESNO'S BRIAN SETENCICH ELECTED.

Editor's note: As we anticipated, Orange Co. Assemblywoman Doris Allen(R) resigned as Speaker just before the Legislature adjourned. Here's our update & analysis...

...The new Assembly Speaker is freshman Brian Setencich of Fresno, a former European pro-basketball player who was Allen's top deputy during what L.A. Times columnist George Skelton called Allen's "historic and tragic" rule as Speaker. And Setencich, while he does not carry all of Allen's baggage, was elected Speaker just like Allen --- with 39 Demo votes...

...Whether this will prove to be his downfall remains to be seen, but this much is certain: 1) he's very popular in his hometown of Fresno; 2) his 30th A.D. has a Demo registration edge, meaning that a recall threat or even a serious primary challenge by Republicans loyal to Assembly Majority/Floor Leader Curt Pringle of Orange Co. would be difficult; 3) money is very tight and another recall would be a major resources drain; 4) the Kern Co. GOP Central Cmt. was opposed to the Allen recall and has been *very supportive* of Setencich (ditto the local news media); and 5) Setencich is well liked by his GOP colleagues, and unlike Allen, has promised to raise funds for GOP candidates. Bottomline: Setencich may be around as Speaker for some time...

...Back to Allen. The recall against her has qualified and Gov. Pete Wilson(R) has set the election for Nov. 28th, the Tuesday after the biggest pre-Christmas shopping weekend of the year. CALPEEK sources rate Allen's survival odds in the recall are less than 45%, even though she's got a loyal following in her 67th A.D.

Why the gloomy outlook? The timing is terrible; she's having a tough time raising money; and it's expected that some of Allen's own words (the penis stuff) will come back to haunt her...

...FYI: savvy GOP campaign consultant Allan Hof-fenblum is no longer working for Allen as her chief political consultant. Wonder whom she'll hire to handle her recall defense??? Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: ADDING MORE NAMES TO THE MIX.

Editor's note: Here's another update on who's IN and who's OUT for 1996 U.S. House & Legislative races...

☑ **9th A.D.** - There will be a hot Demo primary to replace veteran Phil Isenberg(D-Sacto), who is *termed out* in 96. As we mentioned two weeks ago, some Demos have recruited Sacto Councilwoman Deborah Ortiz, while another group of Demos recruited Sacto Co. Sup. Roger Dickinson...

☑ **43rd A.D.** - Within a matter of days after U.S. Rep. Carlos Moorhead(R-Glendale) announced his retirement, top Moorhead AA in the district, Peter Musurlian, announced his candidacy for Assemblyman Jim Rogan's 43rd A.D. seat. Next month, Rogan is expected to announce that he will seek Moorhead's job in the U.S. House. In addition to Musurlian, LAPD Officer Peter Repovich and Burbank Councilman Bill Wiggins also are likely candidates. Musurlian has already gone on the offensive, calling Wiggins "a liberal GOP Assembly candidate."...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- A sad note: Patrick Dailey, the 70-year-old founder of COGS(Candidates' Outdoor Graphic Service) died Sept. 18 after a long battle with heart disease. He was a major force in outdoor political advertising. R.I.P...

- GONE is San Diego GOP Host Cmt. executive director John M. Robbins Jr. His replacement: Jack Ford, son of former Pres. Jerry Ford...

- Attorney David W. Fleming of Latham & Watkins has been elected president of the L.A. City Fire Commission. He succeeds Elizabeth Lowe...